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GLA ROTC Discrimination Appeal

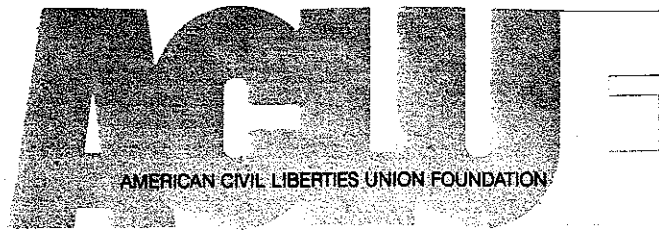
William B. Rubenstein

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LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS PROJECT

National Headquarters
132 West 43 Street
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(212) 944-9800

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April 28, 1992

Robert L. Carothers, President
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Dear President Carothers:

We write to encourage you to join other leaders of higher education in taking a stand against prejudice and hatred by signing the enclosed resolution calling for an end to the U.S. Department of Defense's policy banning all lesbians and gays from the military. The American Council on Education, National Education Association, American Association of University Professors, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the Association of College and University Housing Officers have already signed the resolution.

The military's enforcement of its discriminatory policy in its R.O.T.C. programs is clearly inconsistent with the non-discrimination clauses of most universities. It is causing conflict on an increasing number of campuses, and forcing university administrators to choose between upholding the non-discriminatory values of their universities and retaining R.O.T.C.

The military's policy is wrong because it judges men and women on the basis of prejudice, rather than performance. Thousands of soldiers are forced to live in fear that their military career could abruptly end if it is discovered they are gay, regardless of their service record. These men and women serving America are ready to risk their lives for the freedoms it stands for, yet they are denied the freedom to be honest about who they are. Not only does this policy place an unnecessary burden on gay servicemembers, it also costs taxpayers. Each year the Pentagon discharges more than 1400 men and women for homosexuality. The financial loss of throwing away these trained soldiers and sailors has been estimated to be three-hundred million dollars annually.

Societal attitudes toward the military's policy have changed a great deal in recent years. The enclosed polls and newspaper editorials show that a majority of Americans believe that servicemembers should not be discharged solely for being gay. Even studies commissioned by the Defense Department itself have concluded that there is no valid reason for maintaining the discriminatory policy against lesbians and gay men.

We ask that your institution endorse the statement, but if such a process is unwieldy, we would welcome your personal endorsement. By signing the resolution you and your school are not making a statement about the presence of R.O.T.C. on your campus, rather, you are simply saying that intolerance and bigotry of all kinds are reprehensible and will not be tolerated.

Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it back to us today, or if you need further information, contact Jim Holobaugh at 212-944-9800, extension 642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William B. Rubenstein', written in a cursive style.

William B. Rubenstein
Project Director

Enclosures

University of Rhode Island Gay/Lesbian Assn.

WHEREAS, we oppose discrimination of all forms; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we urge the United States Government to rescind Department of Defense Directive 1332.14 section H.1 so that all Americans currently serving their country in the Armed Services, and those who want to serve, will not be prevented from, or punished for, doing so based on their sexual orientation.

Name (Please print or type)

Signature

Title

Institution's Name

☐ For Identification Purposes Only

☐ Institutional Endorsement

Date

Please return form to:

ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, 132 West 43rd Street, New York, NY 10036